



PEMACO NEWS

Summer, 2001

WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS?

The former Pemaco facility located at 5050 E. Slauson Avenue in Maywood, CA, was the site of a chemical blending facility that operated from the 1940s to 1991. The facility stored, blended and sold various hazardous substances that included solvents, flammable liquids and petroleum products. Leaks from both above-ground and below-ground storage tanks resulted in these materials being deposited in soil and groundwater under the site.

Since the past owners of the Pemaco facility abandoned the site without cleaning it up, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) included the property on the National Priorities List. It is now part of the Superfund Program which ensures that environmental investigation and cleanup will occur.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

The EPA began environmental work at the site in 1997. The initial "rapid response" work included demolition of the buildings (that had previously burned), removal of above and underground tanks, and a preliminary investigation of soil and groundwater. Clean soil was brought in and placed over the surface of the site. A soil vapor extraction (SVE) system operated in 1998 and 1999 and removed considerable amounts of contamination from the subsurface soil.



The EPA began an expanded remedial investigation (RI) this past February 2001. A remedial investigation looks at the extent and type of contamination at a site. The investigation included collection and analysis of more than 1,000 soil samples, 75 groundwater samples and 50 samples of soil vapor. These samples were obtained from both the Pemaco property, adjacent properties, and locations as far away as three blocks from the site.

WHAT DID WE FIND OUT FROM THE MOST RECENT WORK?

Results of the recent investigation have enabled the EPA to more fully determine the extent of chemicals in soil and groundwater that resulted from former operations at Pemaco. Additionally, it has been discovered that past operations on adjacent and nearby properties have also impacted

soil and groundwater with chemicals. Our initial findings show a contaminated groundwater plume that covers an approximate three-block area (see attached maps).

There are no immediate risks to human health or the environment due to chemicals released into soil and groundwater at the Pemaco site. No one is coming into contact with the contamination. Your drinking water has not been affected by these chemicals.

Additional investigations are being conducted by former owners of several of the adjacent and nearby properties. This is being done to determine the location of the chemical releases from the previous operations on those properties.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

In the coming months EPA will conduct additional sampling in a few areas. EPA will then evaluate different alternatives that can be used to clean up residual chemicals in soil and groundwater below and adjacent to the former Pemaco property. Some field-testing, such as groundwater pumping tests, will be performed. A report summarizing the remedial investigation is being prepared and should be completed by the end of 2001.

The former Pemaco site is one of six properties that is planned to become part of a new public park. The EPA is currently working with the City of Maywood and the Maywood River Park Planning Committee to make sure that the cleanup measures can be included in the park design and construction.

The EPA will be preparing additional Fact Sheets regarding the investigation and cleanup progress. The Fact Sheets will be distributed to the community of Maywood and other interested parties. Additional community meetings will also be scheduled to share information and hear from the community.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to call or write:

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